

## **ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to the identification and disruption of essential fungal specific genes isolated in the yeast pathogen *Candida albicans* namely *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1*, and *CaCDC24* and to the use thereof in antifungal diagnosis and as essential antifungal targets in a fungal species for antifungal drug discovery. More specifically, the invention relates to the *CaKRE5*, *CaALR1*, and *CaCDC24* genes, to their use to screen for antifungal compounds and to the drugs identified by such.